

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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ENERGY, OCEAN RESOURCES, AND FEDERAL CONSISTENCY DIVISION REPORT

FOR THE

JUNE 15, 2007 MEETING OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: Alison Dettmer, Deputy Director
Energy, Ocean Resources & Federal Consistency

IMMATERIAL AMENDMENT		
APPLICANT	PROJECT	LOCATION
E-06-015-A1 Plains Exploration and Production Company	Allow pipeline repairs to be undertaken at night (with lighting) for up to four days.	Wall Beach, Vandenberg AFB Santa Barbara County



NOTICE OF PROPOSED IMMATERIAL PERMIT AMENDMENT

E-06-015-A1

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Peter M. Douglas, Executive Director

DATE: June 5, 2007

SUBJECT: Application to amend coastal development permit No. E-06-015 granted to Plains Exploration and Production Company (“PXP”) for inspection and repair of 150-foot sections of Platform Irene’s produced water and oil emulsion pipelines near Wall Beach on Vandenberg Air Force Base (“VAFB”).

The Executive Director of the Coastal Commission has reviewed a proposed amendment to the above-referenced permit, which would result in the use of the following light structures for up to four days if PXP determines that it would be necessary to conduct pipeline replacement or welding activities after dark:

- (1) Two telescoping stanchions with a height range of 5.5 feet to 30 feet (anticipated to be set at approximately 15 feet). Each stanchion will be equipped with six lights for a total of 4000 watts per stanchion. Both stanchions are equipped with shielded hoods to direct light to the ground and minimize illumination of non-project areas.

PXP wants the option of nighttime work so it can complete the repairs quickly and not have to stop work during a critical phase of the repair work.

Findings

The proposed amendment has been deemed “immaterial” for the following reasons:

- The proposed lighting stanchions will be equipped with light shields to direct the light onto the work site and limit the illumination of adjacent areas.
- Biologists with USFWS and VAFB have concluded that although western snowy plovers are known to nest at Wall Beach, because the project site is several hundred yards from the nesting area at Wall Beach, and because the project’s use of lighting will be for a short duration (a maximum of four days), western snowy plovers are not expected to be adversely affected by the proposed use of lighting. Staff of the USFWS, VAFB and County of Santa Barbara support the amendment request.
- Furthermore, Special Condition 6 of coastal development permit No. E-06-015 requires: 1) biological surveys of the project area no more than one-week prior to the start of project



activities and periodically throughout excavation and repair work to determine the presence of western snowy plovers or California least terns within the project vicinity and 2) prohibits project activities from proceeding without approval by the Executive Director and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if individuals of either species are recorded within 100 meters of the project site during these surveys. Considering these requirements, work during the day or night will not proceed if special status species are found within the project area.

Immaterial Permit Amendment

Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations—Title 14, Division 5.5, Volume 19, section 13166(b)—the Executive Director has determined this amendment to be IMMATERIAL.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(1), if no written objection to this notice of immaterial amendment is received at the Commission office within ten (10) working days of mailing said notice, the determination of immateriality shall be conclusive and the amendment shall be approved.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(2), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does not raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or certified local coastal program if applicable, the immaterial amendment shall not be effective until the amendment and objection are reported to the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If any three (3) Commissioners object to the executive director's designation of immateriality, the amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c). Otherwise, the immaterial amendment shall become effective.

Pursuant to section 13166(b)(3), if a written objection to this notice of an immaterial amendment is received within ten (10) working days of mailing notice, and the executive director determines that the objection does raise an issue of conformity with the Coastal Act or a certified local coastal program if applicable, the immaterial amendment application shall be referred to the Commission for action as set forth in section 13166(c).

If you wish to register an objection to this notice, please send the objection in writing to Cassidy Teufel at the above address. If you have any questions, you may contact him at (415) 904-5502 or via email at: cteufel@coastal.ca.gov.